

1981

SOCIAL INSURANCE ACT, JANUARY 19 1981

The 25th anniversary of the General Social Insurance Act (A.S.V.G.) of 9th September 1955 (BG81. No. 189), which came into force on 1st January 1956, was marked by issuing a 2.50S orange-red, pale green and black stamp on January 19, 1981. This stamp was designed by P.J. Molitoris, to depict a ribbon in the national colours as a symbolic representation, with the small words in German “25 Years of the General Social Insurance Act” and A.S.V.G. as a prominent motif. It was printed by lithography in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. By December 1979, 2,422,606 persons were protected by this Act, including 1,153,043 pensioners



THIRD “WIPA 1981”, FEBRUARY 20 1981



On February 20 1981 the 16S + 8S multi-coloured stamp, originally issued on November 15 1979 and then re-issued on November 7 1980 was finally issued as a miniature sheet in the form of the third and finished production stage in the printing sequence.

The miniature sheet, in addition to displaying the stamp design of the Heroes Square in the Vienna Hofburg, contains an ornamental frame with the shield of Austria in an oval cartouche at the top and the old coat-of-arms of Vienna at the base.

As previously the sheet was designed by Otto Zeiller, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and printed in both recess (black in the stamp and the frame) and photogravure (ochre, light cobalt, dark brown, gold (stamp) and red for the emblems in the

border). The stamp itself was perforated 13¾ and 2.3 million sheets were printed.

Whereas the previous two stamps had had the dates “1979” and “1980” respectively in their bottom margins, this stamp has the date “1981”. All these stamps were headed by the words “WIEN LÄDT ZUR WIPA 1981” (i.e. Vienna invites you to WIPA 1981). The size of the design of the stamp was 40x30 mm, that of the stamp 44x34mm and the sheet 90x71mm.

WILHELM DACHAUER, APRIL 6 1981

The centenary of the Austrian artist, Wilhelm Dachauer's birth was celebrated not with the usual portrait stamp but with a 3S blackish-brown design showing an unissued essay of his for the 40+10g stamp of the 1925 Nibelungenlied set (The fight of Dietrich and Hagen). This 3S stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. It was issued on April 6, 1981.



It is not often that a stamp designer is himself honoured with a commemorative stamp - Austria has marked the birth centenary of Wilhelm Dachauer (1881-1951) with a special issue, and the design of the stamp may be familiar; it has been adapted from one of the “Nibelung Legends” stamps of 1926, which Wilhelm designed. He was born in Ried, Austria, the son of a watchmaker and displayed an early talent for drawing. Rather than follow his father's craft (but being compelled to learn a trade) he started his artistic career apprenticed to a house-painter and decorator in Vienna; pursuing his art studies in the evenings. Then he was accepted as a student by the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts where he eventually won a scholarship - the First Rome Prize - which enabled him to undertake a study tour of Italy and Egypt. After World War I, in which he served as a medical auxiliary and, latterly, as a military

illustrator, he set up his own studio in Vienna and received several design commissions from the Austrian Post Office which continued through most of his working life. He designed the definitive, newspaper and postage due stamps of 1921-24, the airmail issue (1922) and the afore-mentioned “Nibelungs”- the 8g “Gunther's Voyage” was acclaimed - and also the “Austrian Heroes” of 1935, the 10S “Chancellor Dollfuss” of 1936, the “Austrian Inventors” (1936) and the “Austrian Doctors” of 1937, also numerous issues in the 1940s. He was a professor of the Academy from 1928 almost up to his death in 1951 following a serious operation.

REHABILITATION CONFERENCE, APRIL 6 1981



The third European Regional Conference of Rehabilitation International was held in Vienna Hofburg from 6th to 10th April 1981. In honour of this conference, a 6S chocolate, new blue and vermilion stamp was issued on April 6, 1981. This stamp was designed by Valentin Wurnitsch to depict a disabled person in a wheelchair working at a lathe, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (chocolate/lilac black) and photogravure (vermilion and new blue/ultramarine) in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

The year 1981 had been proclaimed “The Year of the Disabled”. In Austria, approximately 40,000 people are provided with wheelchairs and about 9,000 of these are enabled to perform work in industry. This relatively high proportion is due to the provision of many rehabilitation centres by the state.

SIGMUND FREUD, MAY 6 1981

The 125th anniversary of the birth of the famous psychoanalyst, Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), was commemorated by issuing a 3S deep purple portrait stamp on May 6, 1981. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and recess printed in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), the Austrian psychologist, was born in Freiburg (now Pribor) in Moravia, the son of a Jewish merchant. When he was three years old, the family moved to Vienna, where he studied medicine and finally graduated in 1881. He began to specialise in neurology and, with the establishment of his own surgery, he investigated the functional diseases of the nervous system and, with Josef Breuer (who advocated treatment by hypnosis), published “Studies on Hysteria” in 1895. Pursuing his studies of nervous disorders, Freud analysed his patients' childhood associations and dreams, recorded his own dreams, and published his most controversial work, “The Interpretation of Dreams”, in 1900. His theories expressed the view that most dreams were the sub-conscious release of latent sexual repression, and despite his evident sincerity he was consequently ostracised by his patients and by his fellow doctors. Nevertheless, in 1902, he was awarded a professorship which enabled him to contact and “recruit” students to form a group which later became known as the Vienna Psycho-analytical Society, the nucleus of the important Internal Psycho-analytical Association (which included Alfred Adler, Carl Jung and other leading psychiatrists) formed in 1910. In 1938, Freud left Vienna to escape Nazi persecution and settled in Hampstead, London, dying there after about a year. The “Sigmund Freud House”, Berggasse 19, Vienna, where he lived and worked for most of his life, is visited by thousands of people from all over the world every year.

HEAT DISTRIBUTORS' CONGRESS, MAY 11 1981



The 20th Congress of the International Union of Long-Distance Heat Distributors (U.N.I.C.H.A.L.) was held from 10th to 13th May 1981 in the Hotel Vienna International. To honour this Congress a 4S multicoloured stamp was issued on May 11, 1981. This stamp was designed by Johannes Kral to depict an allegorical representation of a long-distance heating system, and was printed by the photogravure process in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

The immediate previous Congresses had been held in Helsinki (1969), Hamburg (1971), Brussels (1973), Paris (1975), Rotterdam (1977) and Stockholm (1979) whilst the next Congress was planned to be held in Helsinki or Lohti in 1983. The purpose of U.N.I.C.H.A.L. is the study of the various problems that have arisen in the development of long-distance heat distribution and it had been founded in Paris on 19th May 1954. An idea of its scope may be gained by listing the

titles of its six permanent committees: Study Committee for Statistics; ditto Nuclear Energy; ditto General Problems; ditto Piping; ditto Connection of House Installations; and ditto Economic Questions and Tariffs.

KUENRING EXHIBITION, MAY 15 1981



An exhibition devoted to the Kuenring family was held in the Monastery of Zwettl in Lower Austria during May 1981. To mark this exhibition a 3S multi-coloured stamp was issued on May 15, 1981. It was designed by Auguste Bocskor, to show the ancestor of the family, Azzo, together with his vassals as depicted on the Zwettl "Bearskin" manuscript of 1310/1314. It was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (blue, yellow-orange, red-orange, scarlet, green and gold) in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 13¼.

EUROPA, MAY 22 1981

The 13th Europa-CEPT issue appeared on May 22, 1981. This 6S multi-coloured stamp was designed by Sepp Buchner to depict a maypole with the Europa-CEPT symbol in the top right-hand corner, and was printed by photogravure in cobalt, matte-yellow, cinnabar, black and dark-green. Impression 3.5 million, comb perforated 14¼:13½.



TELEPHONE SYSTEM, MAY 29 1981



The centenary of the Austrian telephone system was commemorated by issuing a 4S multi-coloured stamp on May 29, 1981. It was designed and engraved by Werner Pfeiler and shows a telephone handset of about 1900 A.D. It was printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (dark yellow-green, light cobalt, brown ochre and silver) in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

The first telephone system in Vienna was opened on June 3 1881 by the Vienna Private-Telegraph Company using 15Km of cable centred on the St. Stephen's Tower. A telephone exchange was opened on 1 December 1881 at I Friedrichstrasse

6 with 154 subscribers and from this small beginning developed the modern Austrian system with 22 million subscribers.

ART EDUCATION, JUNE 29 1981

A special 3S multi-coloured stamp was issued on June 29, 1981 to mark "Art Education in Schools". This stamp was designed by Class 2B of the Federal Secondary School at Reutte in Tirol to depict the fairy tale of "The Frog King". It was printed by the photogravure process (ochre-yellow, yellow, blue-violet, Turkish blue, red and black) in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



The story of The Frog King which occurs in the collections of the Brothers Grimm tells of a beautiful princess who loses her golden ball down a well. A frog recovers it and as a reward demands to live with her. Of course, he finally turns into a very handsome prince.

SEIBERSDORF, JUNE 29 1981



The 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Research Centre at Seibersdorf an der Leitha in Lower Austria was commemorated by issuing a 4S new blue, steel blue and orange stamp on June 29, 1981. This stamp was designed by Auguste Bocskor, to depict part of the buildings at Seibersdorf, and was printed in photogravure in an impression of 3.2 million; comb perforated 13½.

The construction of the Austrian Atomic Reactor Centre and Isotope Laboratory was started on August 19 1958 at Seibersdorf and by September 29 1960 the ASTRA Reactor could be activated. The Silver Jubilee is however dated from May 15 1956, when the Austrian Company for the Study of Atomic Energy was founded under the influence of the first U.N.O. Conference on the peaceful use of atomic energy. By 1981, the Research Centre contained about 86 graduates and 530 support workers and its work essentially comprised five fields as follows: Energy and nuclear safety; New technologies and methods; Environmental safety, health and nutrition; Education and information; Planning and co-ordination.

ST. VEIT AN DER GLAN, JULY 17 1981

The 850th anniversary of the town of St. Veit an der Glan in Carinthia was commemorated by issuing a 4S yellow, blackish-brown and red stamp on July 17, 1981. This stamp was designed and engraved by Werner Pfeiler to depict the Baroque gable of the Gothic town hall together with the town seal of c.1250 A.D. portraying St. Vitus and printed in both recess (blackish-brown) and photogravure (yellow and red) in an impression of 3.25 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.



The town of St. Veit stands on the northern border of the valley of the river Glan at the foot of the Sorger mountains. It was first mentioned in a Salzburg document of 1131 in which the Bishopric of Gurk founded a parish church in the town. In 1166, Duke Hermann von Sponheim (1161-1181) acquired St. Veit and made the town his residence. St. Veit first held a market in 1199 and was given a charter in 1224. After 1173 it was the residence of the Duke of Carinthia and served as the capital of that duchy until 1518. Between 1399 and 1781 it was the staple market for iron and this made the town very wealthy. The town now has a population of about 13,000.

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY CONGRESS, AUGUST 31 1981.



The 11th International Congress for Clinical Chemistry was held in the Vienna Hofburg from 30th August until the 5th. September 1981. To honour this congress a 6S reddish-brown stamp was issued on August 31, 1981. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch to portray Johann Florian Heller (1813-1871) the pioneer of chemical urological diagnosis, engraved by Rudolf Toth and recess printed in an impression of 3.37 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

This Congress was also the 4th European Congress for Clinical Chemistry, and Austria was especially proud of being in the forefront of advances in this as well as in all other aspects of medicine. On March 22 1895, Ernst Ludwig (1842-1915), the Vienna Professor of Medical Chemistry, said to the medical society "The scientific development of medicine cannot be contemplated without the help of Chemistry". The set of Austrian stamps issued on December 5 1937 portraying eminent Austrian doctors was an indication of how prominent Austria was in the medical field. The stamp issued for this Congress appropriately portrayed another famous Austrian doctor. He was born on May 4 1813 at Iglau in Moravia and studied medicine at the University of Prague. Then he went to Vienna where in 1844 the society of Doctors built him a laboratory in the General Hospital so that he could devote himself to chemical and microscopical urine diagnostics. The success of the routine analytical techniques that he thus introduced led to his recognition as the pioneer in this field. Having spent most of his life as a professor at the University of Vienna, Johann Florian Heller retired in 1870 and died in Vienna on November 21 1871.

LUDWIG BOLTZMANN, SEPTEMBER 4 1981



The 75th anniversary of the death of the Austrian physicist, Ludwig Boltzmann was commemorated by issuing a 3S deep grey-green stamp on September 4, 1981. This portrait stamp was designed by Sepp Bucher, engraved by Alfred Nefe and recess printed in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Ludwig Eduard Boltzmann (1844-1906) was born in Vienna, the son of a government official, and when the family moved to Linz he attended school there, passing his final examination with distinction. At the age of 19 he took up mathematics and physics at the University of Vienna, graduated three years later and then worked under Joseph Stefan, the physicist, at the Physics Institute. In 1869 he was appointed professor at the University of Graz, married a local lady and had five children.

Subsequently he held numerous professorships elsewhere, visiting Germany and the United States, and finally settling in Vienna in 1895. Boltzmann studied thermodynamics, optical radiation and other aspects of theoretical physics. He did important work on the kinetic theory of gases and established Boltzmann's law, or the principle of equipartition of energy. Unfortunately, his last years were marked by nervous strain, a painful ailment and permanent disablement - he committed suicide.

Boltzmann has a physical constant named after himself. This is R/N where R is the gas constant for 1 gram molecule of a gas and N is the number of actual molecules in the same. Since 2019, it is **defined** as having the value 1.380649×10^{-23} Joules per-Kelvin

PHARMACEUTICAL CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 7 1981.

The World Congress of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (F.I.P.) was held in Vienna from 6 to 11 September 1981. To mark this occasion a 6S black, bistre-brown and deep carmine stamp was issued on September 7, 1981. This stamp was designed by Auguste Bocskor to depict a chemical balance surmounted by the Imperial double eagle, engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (bistre-brown and deep carmine) in an impression of 3.37 million; comb perforated 14. The F.I.P. was founded in the Hague in 1912, with a permanent organisation, to protect pharmaceutical science, and in 1930 published an international pharmacopoeia.



OTTO BAUER, SEPTEMBER 7 1981.



The centenary of the birth of the Austrian writer and politician, Otto Bauer, was commemorated by issuing a 4S multi-coloured portrait stamp on September 7, 1981. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller and printed by the photogravure process (gold, black, pale brown and greyish-ultramarine) in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Otto Bauer was born in Vienna on September 5 1881 and died in Paris on July 4 1938. He was one of the leading figures of the Social Democratic Party and became the Foreign Minister of the First Austrian Republic for a short time. After 1934 he went to Czechoslovakia and Paris.

MATHEMATICAL CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 14 1981.



The 10th International Austrian Mathematicians Congress was held in Innsbruck from 13 to 18 September 1981. To honour this event, a 4S new blue (cobalt), ultramarine and Prussian blue stamp was issued on September 14, 1981. It was designed by Valentine Wurnitsch and showed the “impossible hexahedron construction” by the Dutch mathematician M.C. Escher (1898-1972). Printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

The Austrian Mathematical Society, together with the German Mathematical Union, holds its congresses every four years (Vienna 1948, Innsbruck 1949, Salzburg 1952, Vienna 1956, Innsbruck 1960, Graz 1964, Linz 1968, Vienna 1973 and Salzburg 1977).

PACHER ALTERPIECE, SEPTEMBER 25 1981

A special congress was held in Abersee** to mark the 500th anniversary of the Gothic winged alter by Michael Pacher in St. Wolfgang. A 3S indigo stamp was issued on September 25, 1981 to mark this occasion. This stamp was designed by Sepp Buchner to depict a detail of the kneeling Virgin Mary in the group of the Coronation of Our Lady in the Pacher alter at St. Wolfgang. It was engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and recess printed in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

**The western portion of Wolfgangsee at St. Gilgen



GRAZ SOUTH-EAST FAIR, SEPTEMBER 25 1981



The first Graz Autumn Fair was opened on 29 September 1906. To mark the 75th anniversary of this fair - now called the Graz Southeast Fair - a 4S multi-coloured stamp was issued on September 25, 1981. This stamp was designed by Fritz Krainz to depict the famous Graz clock-tower inside a compass rose, and was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

In 1908 a “Kaiser-Fair” was held, attended by 400,000 visitors, but the First World War stopped the fair and it started again in 1921. The Second World War had the same effect but the fair was re-started on 9th. October 1948.

BYZANTINE STUDIES, OCTOBER 5 1981.

The 16th International Congress of Byzantine Scholars was held in the Vienna Hofburg from 4 to 10 October 1981. In its honour a 6S multi-coloured stamp was issued on October 5, 1981. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict a 12th century illuminated manuscript showing The Holy Trinity, and was printed by photogravure in an impression of 3.6 million; comb perforated 13¼:13¼.

Since 1966, the congress has met each fifth year. The 14th congress was held in Bucharest in 1971, and the 15th Congress in Athens in 1976. To these congresses come the Byzantine scholars from practically all the countries of Europe as well as from the U.S.A., Canada and Australia.



HANS KELSEN, OCTOBER 9 1981.



The centenary of the birth of Hans Kelsen (1881-1973), a lecturer in law and also a drafter of the Austrian constitution, was commemorated by issuing a 3S brown-lake portrait stamp on October 9, 1981. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Alfred Nefe, and recess printed in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 13¾:13¾.

Hans Kelsen was born in Prague on October 11 1881 but grew up in Vienna where he obtained a doctorate in law in 1906. He played a prominent part in drafting the “Federal Constitution” of the First Austrian Republic in 1920. In 1938 he emigrated to the U.S.A. to the University of Berkeley where he died on April 19 1973.

TOLERATION ACT, OCTOBER 9 1981.

The bicentenary of the Act of Toleration of the Emperor Josef II, which permitted freedom of worship to Protestants, was commemorated by issuing a 4S black, greenish-blue and olive-bistre portrait stamp on October 9, 1981. This stamp was designed by Sepp Buchner to depict a portrait of Josef II, engraved by Rudolf Toth, and printed by both recess (black) and photogravure in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 14:14. This Act of Toleration was dated October 13 1781 and applied both to Lutheran and Calvinistic Christians as well as those Greek Christians not united with Rome.



WORLD FOOD DAY, OCTOBER 16 1981.

“World Food Day” in 1981 was held on October 16, and to mark this occasion a 6S multi-coloured stamp was issued on October 16, 1981. This stamp was designed by Ferdinand Domer to depict the full and empty bowls to each side of the F.A.O. Emblem, and was printed by photogravure (blue-grey, dark olive-green, dark blue and silver) in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 13½:13¾. The F.A.O. was formally founded as part of U.N.O. on October 16 1945 in Quebec and in 1951 it occupied its permanent site in Rome. By 1981, 147 states belonged to the F.A.O. whose task is to relieve hunger throughout the world.



MODERN ART, OCTOBER 22 1981

The 7th value in the series “Austrian Modern Art” was issued on October 22, 1981. This year the 4S multi-coloured stamp depicted the work “Zwischen den Zeiten” (Between the times) by Oscar Asboth and was printed by lithography (black, cornflower blue, Turkish blue, yellow and lilac purple) in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

Oscar Asboth was born in 1925, the son of another Oscar Asboth who was an engineer concerned with the application of air propellers to ships on the Danube in their home city of Budapest. The son grew up in an environment of technology until he left Hungary in 1956 and came to live in Austria, staying in Mödling and Baden. He started to paint and was “discovered” by Aurelio Peccei, the President of the Club of Rome, in 1974 for his work “Skylight”. His works mainly reflect the influence of technology on his thinking.



CATHOLIC EMPLOYEES MEETING, OCTOBER 23 1981

The 7th International Meeting of the Catholic Employees Association was held in Vienna-Lainz from 24 to 27 October 1981. To mark this occasion a 3S multi-coloured stamp was issued on October 23, 1981. This stamp was designed by Ferdinand Dörner to depict two workers breaking stones underneath the shield of the association. It was engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (ultramarine, cobalt and dark blue) in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½.

As a result of the papal encyclical “Rerum novarum” on social matters issued by Leo XIII in 1891, a number of national Catholic employees bodies were founded to study and apply its teachings. In 1969, Peter Lepszy, of the German Catholic Workers Movement, together with the Catholic Social Institute of the Archdiocese of Cologne and the Austrian Catholic Workers Movement, attempted to form an International Association by holding a seminar on the theme of “Social Security in Europe”.



The second meeting was held in 1971 at Brixen in South Tirol, on the theme “The problems of industrialising the farming areas”. The third was held in 1973 in Eisenstadt, on the theme “Humanising the modern company”. The 4th was held in 1975 at Plater College in Oxford, on the theme, “The role of trade unions in the European countries”. The 5th was held in 1977 at Honnefer, the theme was “Organisation of industry in Europe”, whilst the 6th was held in the St. Thomas cultural centre in 1980 with the theme “Elements of a social order in Europe”. The theme of this 7th. meeting was to be “Catholic social movements - problems and opportunities”.

JOSEF HAMMER-PURGSTALL, NOVEMBER 23 1981.

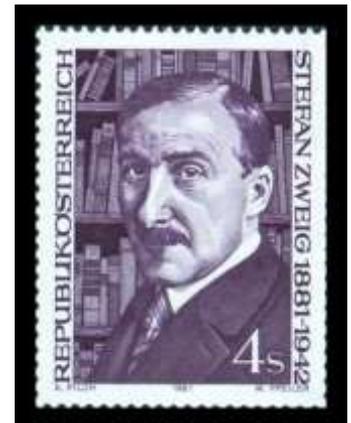


The 125th anniversary of the death of the orientalist Josef, Baron Hammer-Purgstall was commemorated with a 3S multi-coloured portrait stamp issued on November 23, 1981. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller, who based it upon a portrait painted by Josef Kriehuber, engraved by Maria Laurent and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (grey-brown, blue-grey, carmine, brown-orange, straw-yellow and gold) in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 13¾:13¾. Hammer-Purgstall was born on June 9 1774 in Graz and died in Vienna on November 23 1856.

(This was Zeiller’s best stamp, he said.)

STEFAN ZWEIG, NOVEMBER 27 1981.

The centenary of the birth of the famous Austrian writer Stefan Zweig was commemorated by issuing a 4S blackish-lilac portrait stamp on November 27, 1981. This stamp was designed by Adalbert Pilch, engraved by Werner Pfeiler and recess printed in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 14¼:13½. Stefan Zweig was born on November 28 1881 in Vienna and died on February 23 1942 in Petropolis near Rio de Janeiro. He wrote many plays, libretti for the operas of Richard Strauss, as well as historical biographies.



JULIUS RAAB, NOVEMBER 27 1981.



The 90th anniversary of the birth of the Austrian politician Julius Raab was commemorated with a 6S maroon portrait stamp issued on November 27, 1981. It was designed by Adalbert Pilch to depict Julius Raab against the Austrian flag, engraved by Rudolf Toth, and recess printed in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 13¾:13¾. Raab was born on November 29 1891 at St. Polten in Lower Austria and died on January 8 1964 in Vienna. He was the founder in 1945 of the Austrian People's Party and became Minister of Commerce under Chancellor Leopold Figl. On April 1 1953 he succeeded as Chancellor and held this position until April 11 1961.

CHRISTMAS, NOVEMBER 27 1981



The annual Christmas stamp, the 17th in the sequence, was issued on November 27, 1981. This stamp was designed by Otto Zeiller to depict a Christmas Crib as made of straw in the Burgenland. It was engraved by Maria Laurent and printed in both recess (brownish-black) and photogravure (brown- ochre, ochre-brown and violet-ultramarine) in an impression of 5.3 million; comb perforated 13 $\frac{3}{4}$:13 $\frac{3}{4}$. Straw cribs of this type are a tradition in the Burgenland and are made by the 16 and 17 year old pupils of Sister Elfriede Ettl at the school of the Theresanum in Eisenstadt; the capital of the Burgenland. The stamp shows only a detail, the middle portion, of a very large crib comprising 22 figures, both human and animals, in the school's collection.

St. NIKOLA a. d. DONAU, DECEMBER 4 1981.

The 800th anniversary of the foundation of the town of St. Nicholas on the Danube in Upper Austria was marked by issuing a 4S multi-coloured stamp on December 4, 1981. This stamp was designed and engraved by Werner Pfeiler to depict the coat -of- arms of the town, which shows St. Nicholas in a boat. It was printed by both recess (black) and photogravure (lemon-yellow, red, ultramarine and orange) in an impression of 3.5 million; comb perforated 13 $\frac{3}{4}$: 13 $\frac{3}{4}$. The town, originally called "Pahin", was founded by Beatrix von Klam. The church dedicated to St. Nicholas was built in the 14th century and the name of the town changed.



VIENNA MEDICAL SERVICE, DECEMBER 9 1981.



The centenary of the Vienna Emergency Medical Service was commemorated by issuing a 3S multi-coloured stamp on December 9, 1981. This stamp was designed by Johannes Kral and shows a modern ambulance. It was printed in photogravure (light cobalt, ultramarine, green, cinnabar and sepia) in an impression of 3.4 million; comb perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$:13 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Vienna Ringtheatre at Schottenring 7 was burned down on December 8 1881. The next day, Dr Jaromir Mundy (1822-1894), together with Count Hans Wilczek (1837-1922) and Edurd Lamezan (1835-1903) founded the Vienna voluntary Rescue Service; appalled by the loss of 386 people in that fire. On January 2 1882, Dr Mundy was received by the Emperor and, having received his approval, the first ambulance was constructed by the firm of Lohner. It was ready by January 31 1882. (The site now houses the federal headquarters of police for Vienna!)